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CEDAR LAKE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Celebration of

Remembering...

THANKS and HOPE

1874-1974

"This Celebration is
dedicated
to the future generations
who are to become the
church of Cedar Lake"

For Our Families and Friends,

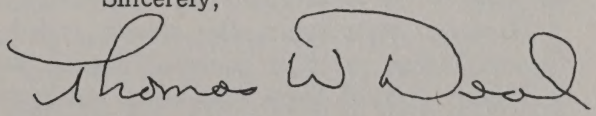
On behalf of the Cedar Lake Church I welcome you to this celebration of the one-hundredth year of life of this congregation. We are happy that you can share in our joy, and that you can be a part of this renewal of our heritage of Christian service.

At this point in our history we pause for a moment to remember many people whose dreams and work have built this church and developed its program. We realize the unpayable debt we owe to those who gave unselfishly of their energy and money so that the ministry of this church could be a reality. As we continue the work that was started, we have learned our goal from our ancestors--to make our vision of the task of this church large enough to overcome whatever divides us.

Our Centennial, of course, is not only a look at the past. We are celebrating the founding of our church because it was the beginning of a mission which is still very much alive. We have improved and expanded our inheritance.

So, our celebration is one of remembrance and hope. We look to the past, but also to the future. Our hope is that the future generations who pick up the work here at Cedar Lake will always have as their aim to "Seek First the Kingdom of God."

Sincerely,



Thomas W. Deal, Pastor

Brethren Under the Lordship of Christ

The Church of the Brethren, founded at Schwarzenau, Germany, in 1708, sought to unite in faith and practice the streams of spiritual idealism of the day. The founders believed that men were justified by faith, but insisted that faith was not genuine unless expressed in the good life.

The genius of the Brethren consists in relating religion to life, belief to action, and theology to ethics, resulting in a demonstrative Christianity. The church, therefore, extends a ministry to the world which offers redemption to sinners, relief to the needy, assurance to the hungry of heart, joy and harmony to the home and family, love and brotherhood to the church, and peace, justice and neighborliness to the world.

The Brethren witness begins with humble confession of sin. It continues with an unceasing prayer for purity of heart, for clearness of spiritual vision, and for grace to bend the human will to the will of God. It seeks to touch all of life, and to build under the Lordship of Christ a redeemed world of personal excellence and of social righteousness.

We, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, commit our lives and our total resources to a fuller realization of our opportunities and responsibilities, and to more faithful service.

Ministers and Pastors of Cedar Lake

Cedar Lake was organized as a separate congregation in 1874.

James Barton was elected to the ministry here and later ordained to the eldership and given charge of the church.

Since its organization the church called to the ministry George Rufner in 1876, Samuel Williams, Samuel Urey, David E. Hoover, John H. Urey, Alva Long, and Russell Sherman.

Elder John Urey was baptized in 1892 by J. H. Elson, at that time a minister here. He was called to the ministry in 1894, advanced in 1897, ordained in 1911, and at once given charge

of the congregation. He was assisted in the ministry by Amos Budd, who had recently moved in.

Until 1923 the congregation was served by the free ministry, since then the following have served as pastors:

Clyde C. Cripe	*1923-1926*
John Rarick	*1927-1928*
Russell Sherman	*1929-1931*
(Pulpit supply)	*1931-1937*
Gorman Zook	*1937-1941*
Kenneth Long	*1941-1945*
Vernon Johnson	*1945-1947*
Ralph Fry	*1947-1951*
William H. Loucks	*1951-1959*
Homer A. Schrock	*1959-1960*
Raymond Risden	*1960-1962*
Arthur F. Morris	*1962-1969*
Roy S. Richey	*1969-1972*
Thomas W. Deal	*1972-*

The Brethren at Cedar Lake

ORIGIN--

By 1873, the Cedar Creek Church had 125 members, widely scattered. It was thought best to divide the territory. That to the west known as Pleasant Hill; to the north Cedar Lake; to the east Little St. Joe; that to the center and south remained Cedar Creek. While the separation from the Cedar Creek territory dated 1873, Cedar Lake was organized as a separate congregation in 1874. Jacob Gump was the first presiding elder.

James Barton was elected to the ministry here and later ordained to the eldership and given charge of the church. The church was organized with 42 members. Following James Barton's service as elder, Isaac Berkey, John Urey and Jesse Gump served.

BUSINESS MEETINGS--

The first recorded business meeting was held October 13, 1877, on Saturday morning. Below are some of the items from the minutes of that meeting. They first elected a clerk and a treasurer.

Two were appointed to visit another and "demand the book and money that was in his hands belonging to the church."

The "throw in" for the poor amounted to $3.17.

They decided to have a communion "meeting" on Thursday, October 25, 1877 at 4:00 p.m. After "diner" they "signed for communion". They determined that 400 lb. of beef at $5.50 per hundred would be needed, also one-half ton of hay for $3.50 delivered. Tuesday, October 23, 1877 was set to meet at the "church house" to prepare for the communion meeting.

A person was appointed to take care of the church and open doors for twenty dollars ($20.00) to be paid in four equal payments.

$2.62 was allowed out of the poor money for lamp chimneys and oil.

The council minutes of August 11, 1900 recorded that the visiting Brethren reported on the Annual visit showing 82 visited and 5 missed.

The item below was taken from the minutes of the August 10, 1901 council: "Bro. _____ asked to be taken back into the church. After some time was spent in investigating his case the church concluded to receive him back into the church upon him making a good confession and promising to try to live better hereafter. Upon his confession the church received him back into the church with the hand of fellowship."

The minutes of February 8, 1902 council recorded that "the visit of one Sister was reported and discussed by the church. The church concluded to disfellowship her from the church for living with her second husband while her first husband is living."

The February 7, 1903 council decided to elect church officers the new legal way and proceded to elect three trustees.

The May 5, 1921 council approved of establishing two congregations in the Cedar Lake district. It was decided that the dividing line be a line east and west, and one and one-half miles north of the Fairfield and Richland township line, U.S. route 6.

On Sunday morning, February 11, 1951 the church approved the recommendation of the Building Committee "to lower the floor at the rear of the church before a complete drawing of plans be made and accepted for total remodeling of the church building."

The church in special council, May 7, 1973, decided to build an addition to the present structure with priorities given to educational facilities and entrances to the sanctuary and a narthex.

The March 17, 1974 special council received a report from the Capital Funds Campaign committee that $82,584.86 was given in pledges.

FIRST SUNDAY SCHOOL--(Sabbath School)

The citizens of the neighborhood met to organize a Sabbath School on April 4, 1880, at 3:00 P.M. (Sunday afternoon) at the Cedar Lake Church. The lesson was taken from Matthew 11: 20-30. G. Patterson was elected Superintendent.

DISTRICT MEETING AT CEDAR LAKE--

On April 6, 1882, the District Meeting of Northern Indiana was held at Cedar Lake. Thirty-four congregations were represented with fifty-nine delegates and one letter. Seven queries were presented. One query was: "What shall be done when a member refuses to have the annual visit?" The answer given was, "Admonish them again and again". It was decided that each church appoint their own canvasser to raise money to build an Orphan's Home. The money was to be due in sixteen months.

The district Meeting was held in the Cedar Lake Church 1898. Meal tickets were sold for five cents each, but donations were generous then.

DISTRICT AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE--

The Cedar Lake Church has been regularly represented by elected delegates at both Northern Indiana District, and General Conferences of the Church of the Brethren, and has presented queries to the District Conference. Several members have from time to time served faithfully on Boards and Commissions of the District. The church has often been helped by the services the District makes available to the local churches such as: the Camping Program, Religion and Life Schools, Vacation Bible School and Teacher Training Sessions, and local and district workshops featuring various phases of church life.

MISSIONS AND BRETHREN SERVICE

This Congregation has always been interested in missions. The first partial support going to Adam and Alice King Ebey, missionaries to India.

Farewell service for our own Velma Over was held on August 2, 1936. Charles D. Bonsack, Secretary of the General Mission Board, conducted the services. She left this area for Chicago on Monday, September 7, 1936 going to the China mission field. She returned home in 1941 and was forced by war conditions to remain in America for five years. She returned to the China field in 1946 until 1951. Because of the Communist take-over

in China she was unable to return to that field of service. In 1952 she began her service in Nigeria, Africa, and continued there until her retirement in 1968. We contributed partial financial support in her work.

In recent years the Dr. William Weybright family, and at present the Owen Shankster family are recipients of our partial support. They are missionaries to Africa.

Over the years Cedar Lake has taken a keen interest in Heifer Project, and has supported it enthusiastically from its beginning in the 1940's to the present. We have sent a number of heifers to various parts of the world, and through the Vacation Church School efforts have sent baby chicks, rabbits and sheep. Other service projects included helping Migrant workers, Nigerian schools, Inner city - South Bend, tornado relief, and Bibles around the world.

Several of our members have given a year in Brethren Volunteer Service, training at New Windsor, Maryland and then carrying out assignments in various areas.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The program of outreach at Cedar Lake has had a history of continuous growth. The present congregation has inherited a rich tradition of community service and is intent on expanding this part of their program.

Local community benevolence was evident early in the life of the church by the maintenance of a "poor fund". This was a cash fund maintained for the support of needy families in the area. The church in recent years has preserved this tradition by receiving offerings periodically for those who need material help.

The people of Cedar Lake have, from the beginning, been active in coming to the aid of victims of disaster and illness. These activities have included providing bedding and food, cutting and delivering fire wood (especially for the elderly), and helping to harvest crops for disabled farmers. Another type of aid, in the early life of the church, involved providing meals and child care for new parents until the mother could return to

normal household work. In these ways the Brethren of yesterday and today have joined with their neighbors to serve local needs. In addition to these joint efforts, the youth of the church have undertaken "work days" to help some of the elderly of our community.

A new type of community service began in the fall of 1973 with the establishment of a nursery school. "Scamper School" has provided community children with the experience of learning to share themselves with others.

Cedar Lake has a history of association with other churches in the area. It was an early member of the Richland Township Sunday School Convention. In 1924, at the initiative of our church, union Thanksgiving services began in cooperation with Maple Grove United Brethren and Showers Corner United Brethren. These churches have since combined to form Maple Grove United Methodist. Since that time Zion Lutheran Church has been included. The two above mentioned programs have continued to this day. For the past several years Cedar Lake has participated in a joint Bible School program with Maple Grove. This program also seeks to involve community children.

Christmas and Easter Cantatas have been an enjoyable part of our association with other Brethren churches in this vicinity. Another form of exchange during the 1930's and 40's were the plays presented by our youth group. Formerly presented in our church as well as neighboring Brethren churches they have, in recent years, been staged at Cedar Lake before full houses.

An additional part of Youth activity in an earlier time was a township and county Youth Council. These Councils were designed for fellowship, worship and recreation.

As a church we have not confined our vision to our home community, but we have contributed heavily to a much broader outreach. Many farmers in the church have been active for CROP, sometimes maintaining "Friendship Acres" (a portion of land the income of which is pledged to CROP), sometimes farming a single farm together. Today most contributions to CROP are given in cash, but originally sacks of grain were received from contributors.

Cedar Lake has been an active supporter of Brethren institutions through the years. During the "lean" depression years the congregation sent food and money to Bethany Seminary, and today continues to support this vital program. Through substantial contributions in the church budget, and by private gifts, the Brethren at Cedar Lake have supported Manchester College, Timbercrest Home (and its predecessor at Mexico, Indiana), Oaklawn Psychiatric Center and the world-wide relief and mission efforts of the larger Brethren church. In a real sense the Cedar Lake church accepts the world as its responsibility.

BUILDING, REMODELING, DEDICATIONS--

At a special council on July 14, 1924, the church voted to build a parsonage. It is located on the north west corner of the church ground.

The council meeting September 9, 1924, decided to have dedication service on Sunday afternoon of November 9, 1924. Bro. Otho Winger was the speaker.

During 1942 the front part of the church was remodeled and the entrance moved from the center of the building to the east as it now stands. Also the yard was graded and landscaped. Speakers for the rededication were Russell Sherman and Arthur F. Morris.

Extensive remodeling started again in 1952 with the addition of the balcony, classroom and library at the east end of the building. This remodeling included interior painting, refinishing the present sanctuary floor and the addition of new pews presently used.

In 1960 the baptistry was installed, and in 1962 the utility room and half bath room were added to the parsonage.

In 1966 the present building was insulated, aluminum storm windows and doors, electric heat, new tables and chairs, fireplace installed and basement remodeled. These improvements were dedicated November 12, 1966. Our District Secretary, J. Wilburn Lewallen gave the dedication message.

In 1970 the parsonage was again redecorated and the front porch enclosed and added to the living room area.

1974

C B S PROGRAM (Church Building Service)

The church adopted the program as presented to the May 7, 1973 council by the C B S Program Committee. Given below is a summary of the items of the program:

There are to be two morning worship services when the congregation exceeds the sanctuary size. The sanctuary is to be simple and yet bright and uplifting.

The space for class rooms in the Christian Education wing is to range from 2750-3000 square feet. Adequate equipment and materials are to be available.

Community outreach is to emphasize (1) spiritual growth and (2) relate to all the people of the community.

In order to promote fellowship and recreation, provision is to be made for a narthex, fellowship area and an activities center.

Those responsible for the Administration are to make sure that all phases of the church work are provided for. As many members as possible are to be involved in some task of the church. All members and interested persons are to be kept informed concerning the plans, the needs, the services and the ministries of the church. Administration facilities eventually are to include a pastor's study, a meeting room, a secretarial office and a work area.

In the Future

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

Theme: HERITAGE, INVOLVEMENT, VENTURE

Saturday, September 14, 1974--7:30 p.m. History in Pageant
Sunday, September 15, 1974--9:15 a.m. church school

10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
Speaker: Dr. Donald Durnbaugh, Bethany Seminary

Noon: Old Fashioned Meal

Saturday, September 21, 1974--7:30 p.m. Panel
"The Church in the Rural Community"
Sunday, September 22, 1974--9:15 a.m. church school
Leader: Dr. Blair Helman, Pres. Manchester College

10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
Speaker: Dr. Dale W. Brown, Bethany Seminary

Noon: Basket dinner - potluck

"CORNERSTONE CEREMONY"

Centennial Committee:
Thomas W. Deal
Chester Lung, Chairman
Anna Ruth Haynes, Secretary
Arthur F. Morris

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